



## Laws and why they are important:

**Conservation District Law** - so Commissioners can understand the powers and authorities granted to them and act accordingly.

**Watershed Law** - so Commissioners can oversee the Watershed Districts and their Boards of Directors and understand how these powers and authorities fit with the Districts.

**Freedom of Information Act** - so Boards do not meet illegally or render their decisions void because they did not properly notify the public; so the Commissioners understand what materials in the local office are subject to the Act and which are not.

**Ethics Law** - so Commissioners understand what they can and cannot do as part of an elected Board as an individual elected official; so Commissioners do not ask the staff to do anything illegal; so Commissioners are not fined for not turning in their Ethics Forms annually.

**Civil Rights Titles of the Voting Rights Act of 1964** – so the Board can assure that all its operations are conducted according to law and policy. It is the policy of Districts that they will comply with the state equal employment opportunity and civil rights policies. Therefore, Commissioners as individuals and elected officials must comply with these policies.

### Formal Agreements:

**Mutual Agreement with USDA and State of SC** - covers the Partners' relationship, cooperation, administrative commitment, and alliance for nondiscrimination.

**Cooperative Working Agreement with NRCS and SCDNR-LWCD** - supplements the Working Agreement, says how the partnership of NRCS, SCDNR and the District will work together on partnering, personnel, program delivery to customers, technical standards, facilities, equipment, data sharing, funding, liability and civil rights.

**Local Agreement** – agreement with no-till drill vendors or maintenance people, small farmers groups, or local governments for work during emergencies.

**Partnership Agreement** – agreement between SC Association of Conservation Districts, SCDNR-LWCD, and NRCS to work together cooperatively to provide services to all customers.

## Planning Documents:

**Long-range Partnership Plan** – is a list of the districts' long-range goals and how they are to be achieved. This plan is updated every five years and used to produce the annual plan at the beginning of the work year. Input from the public and all partners is included.

**Annual Partnership Plan** – is a list of annual goals and how they are to be achieved. This plan is updated annually and comes from the long-range Partnership Plan.

## Abbreviations:

**ACP** - Agricultural Conservation Program - no longer exists. Used to be the conservation cost-share program on farmlands. Some practices are still in effect.

**APO** - Annual Partnership Plan - annual plan of operations for the District, SCDNR, and NRCS within a District.

**BMP** - Best Management Practice - conservation practice which is chosen as most practical for an individual site.

**Coastal Council** - planning and regulatory body of the state which works in coastal areas.

**COG** - Council of Governments

**Conservation Compliance** - meeting all requirements of the 1985 and 1990 Farm Bills so you can be eligible for money from USDA. Covers land that is "highly erodible"

**Conservation Plan** - official NRCS and District record of land users' decisions over time to perform conservation practices. Required for conservation compliance.

**Conservation Planning** - (holistic, ecosystem, whole-farm, etc.) - working with land users to plan the best use of land and to decide on systems of conservation practices to use.

**CRP** - Conservation Reserve Program - enacted by the 1985 Farm Bill; retires cropland to trees, grass, perennial wildlife foods or a combination of the three

**DC** - District Conservationist - NRCS position that oversees the NRCS work of a District.

**EQIP** - Environmental Quality Incentives Program - Part of the 1996 Farm Bill, it provides cost-share money for installing conservation practices under a contract.

**EWP** - Emergency Watershed Protection - NRCS program which helps clean up after natural disasters like floods and storms.

**1990 FACTA Farm Bill** - farm bill passed in 1990, called the Food, Agricultural and Conservation Trade Act (FACTA.)